



ANDRÉ BAUER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of South Carolina  
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

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COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

July 17, 2007

The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.  
213 Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Peeler:

A public hearing, attended by more than 200 persons, was held in Greenville on Monday, July 16, to discuss the impact of Medicaid transportation changes on senior citizens and people with disabilities. We are confronting a situation that, in the judgment of medical professionals, has reached the point where it is not a question of **if** a tragedy will occur, but **when**.

Several issues were raised.

- There is a public perception that someone should be immediately designated by the Department of Health and Human Services as responsible and accountable for resolving issues and complaints. The vacancies in the executive leadership of this \$4 billion Cabinet agency should be promptly addressed.
- DHHS has, in the last few days, implemented a hot line for transportation providers. A similar system should be installed for other health care providers and families, especially since the advent of searing summer temperatures is now met by an agency policy that leaves many in wheelchairs unattended for hours on roadsides.
- For some reason, the number of eligibles - a key to provider reimbursement - has decreased by 30 percent in some counties. This is among several factors that have led Councils on Aging in Laurens, Greenwood, and Pickens to terminate initial 90-day contracts with the DHHS Medicaid transportation broker, and is contributing to several other counties considering similar actions.
- The executed Medicaid brokerage contracts should be made public. Repeated attempts by the Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina to examine these contracts have been unsuccessful, with DHHS providing piecemeal and incomplete information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "André".

André